

### Gonzo

Once upon a time, not too far away, lived a little giraffe named Gonzo. He was short for a giraffe, barely taller than a big dog. Gonzo was very popular in the animal kingdom. Everybody enjoyed being around him because he was so nice and helpful. Whenever somebody

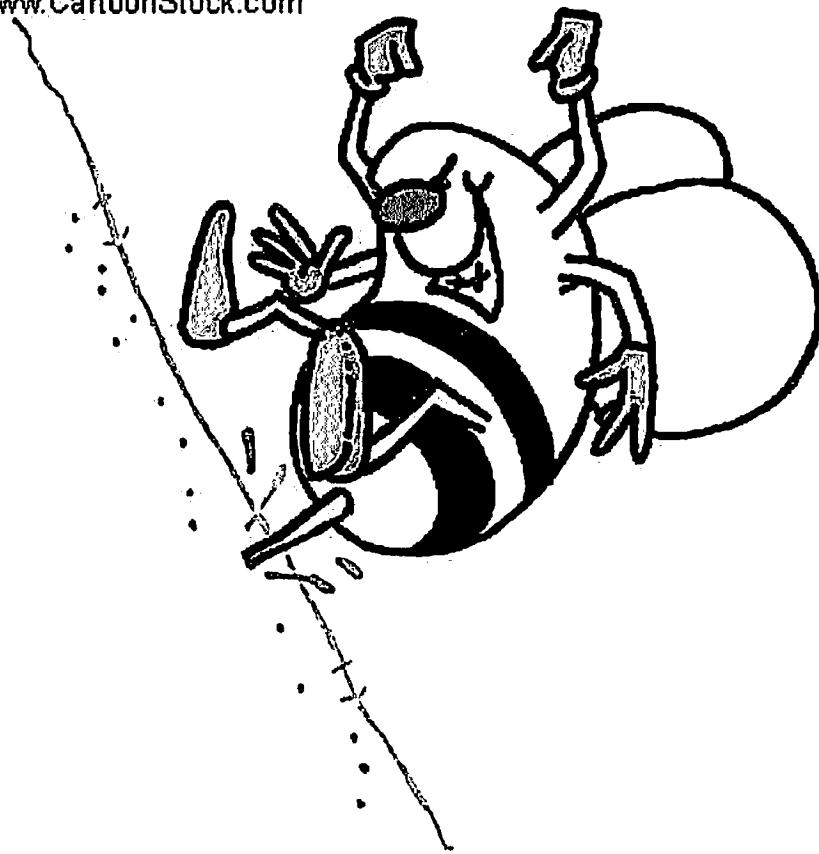


needed help, Gonzo was always the first to volunteer. If Mustafa the Monkey ever needed his little monkey children to be babysitted, Gonzo would do it. If Petunia the Platapoose ever needed something heavy to be lifted, Gonzo would

do it. No matter who it was, or what they wanted Gonzo to do, he would do it. Everybody in the whole animal kingdom was friends with Gonzo. Everybody except one animal.

Buster the Bumblebee was a bully. He flew around the neighborhood buzzing around peaceful animals causing a ruckus. This was Buster's idea of

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fun. And if anybody told Buster to shoo, or to fly away, Buster stung them.

One day, on a beautiful sunny day, Gonzo the Giraffe was drinking lemonade while mowing his lawn. Everything was very peaceful and happy, until Buster flew along.

"Hey Gonzo!" buzzed Buster. "Whatcha doin' there?"

Gonzo knew he was in trouble. He didn't want to get Buster mad or else he might get stung so he tried to be as polite as can be.

"I'm very busy today, Buster, mowing my lawn and drinking my lemonade. I would appreciate it if you did not distract me," pleaded Gonzo, looking scared at Buster flying around.

Now Buster didn't like it that Gonzo didn't want him there. So being a bully as he is, Buster started to hover over Gonzo's head and started to fly in circles, buzzing around and around. This made Gonzo very nervous. He didn't want to be stung, so he decided to keep his eye on Buster. But Buster kept flying around in circles, and he started to fly faster, and faster until Gonzo got so dizzy swinging his neck around in circles that he fell over.

"HAHAHA!" buzzed Buster with joy. "Look at you! You won't be able to drink your precious lemonade now!" And with a final buzz of laughter, Buster flew away from Gonzo.

At first, Gonzo didn't know what happened. He just remembered getting dizzy and falling over. When Gonzo stood up, he thought something felt weird.



That's when he noticed that his

neck was tied into a knot.

"Now I'm never going to be able to drink my lemonade," cried Gonzo. "I need to get my neck untied fast," he thought, and called his good friend Kinky the Kangaroo.

"What happened to you?" Kinky the Kangaroo asked.

"Buster the Bumblebee made me tie my neck in a knot," said Gonzo. "Can you untie my neck for me?"

"Sure thing," responded Kinky. But everything Kinky tried to do to untie poor Gonzo's neck didn't work.

"I know what I'll do! I'll call Patrick the Panda Bear! He'll know what to do!" said Gonzo. But Patrick couldn't get a grip on the knot without scraping Gonzo's neck, so he had to give up too. Gonzo then called Samwell the Snake to try and pry the knot in his neck free, but the knot was just too tight. After Samwell came Stuey the Sloth. Gonzo was sure that Stuey would untie his neck. But Stuey just moved too slow. It would take him weeks to get Gonzo's neck out of its knot, and Gonzo wasn't going to wait that long.

Because everybody liked Gonzo, and because Gonzo always helped all of the other animals, everyone wanted to try and help Gonzo. So all the animals in the entire kingdom came to Gonzo's house to each try to untie his neck, but every single animal failed. Eddie the Elephant's trunk was too big to grab Gonzo's knot, Henry the Hippo was too fat and lazy to even try, and Chester the Crocodile almost bit Gonzo's head off when he tried to untie the neck. Gonzo was almost ready to give up. But there was one last animal in the kingdom that hadn't tried yet. Omar the Orangutan walked up to Gonzo, grabbed the knot with his big powerful hands, and untied the Gonzo's neck with ease. Every animal started to cheer and pat Omar on his back. Every animal except Buster the Bumblebee, who angrily buzzed away from the other animals having a good time, and was never seen again. Now finally, thanks to Omar the Orangutan, Gonzo the giraffe could finish mowing his lawn and drinking his lemonade in peace.



THE END